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OSHA Docket  
Docket No. H-122  
Room N-2625  
200 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Administrators:

Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) has been in the news a great deal recently, but that would not be a good reason for your agency to impose sharp new restrictions on smoking in the workplace.

I strongly oppose further restrictions.

According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), only two to five percent of "sick" buildings have air quality problems associated with ETS.

I do not believe minute traces of cigarette smoke in the air present any significant health hazard -- and many experts concur with my belief. According to recent testimony before the U.S. Senate by researchers from the Congressional Research Service, an arm of Congress, "the statistical evidence does not appear to support a conclusion that there are substantial health effects from passive smoking."

Before OSHA imposes burdensome new regulations, I respectfully suggest it explore the alternatives. Each business owner should continue to have the right to serve his or her particular clientele in the way they wish to be served. Smokers and non-smokers can be accommodated in public places.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Wertz  
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